

**FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

October 21, 2004

**Water Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
Auditorium – 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

- **Call to Order – Item 1**

Vice Chairperson Duff called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

- **Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Elizabeth Rice Grossman
Sandra Gutierrez
Margaret Taylor
Lou Vismara
Alice Walker Duff

Commissioners Absent: Rob Reiner
Eliseo Medina

Ex Officio Commissioner Absent: Secretary for Education
Secretary of Health and Human Services

- **Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2004 – Item 3**

ACTION: Vice Chairperson Duff moved that the Commission approve the minutes for the July 15, 2004 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vismara and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- **Chairman's Report – Item 4**

Vice Chairperson Duff provided an update on the following issues:

Media Update

- On August 12, KCET hosted a media event to announce the debut of *A Place of Our Own* and its Spanish-language companion *Los Ninos En Su Casa*. This series, which is funded by First 5 California, First 5 LA, British Petroleum (BP) and others, is designed to help home-based caregivers give young children a running start on learning. The media event occurred at the KCET studios in Los Angeles. Articles about the new program appeared in the Los Angeles Times and in La Opinion. The program debuted on KCET on September 13 and is airing on all PBS stations statewide.

- A second media event – billed as a “series premier” – hosted by BP took place September 13. Policymakers, legislators, elected officials and other stakeholders attended. Commissioner Eliseo Medina attended. Jane Henderson, Executive Director, First 5 California, served as one of the keynote speakers.
- On August 2, the Univision affiliate in San Francisco filmed a 30-minute television special on “School Success,” which aired on August 28. The special explored the factors that affect school success from the early years and focused on the importance of quality preschool programs. The program showcased BANANAS, a First 5-funded Bay Area community organization.
- On August 9, the Media Review Committee met to discuss the next round of paid ads that are tentatively scheduled to run in late November. The next round of First 5 ads strives to continue to build awareness about Preschool for All and to inform the public about how preschool benefits not only individual children and families, but all Californians. Lew Platt (Chairman, Boeing) will appear as a spokesperson.
- The next phase of the campaign is to focus on societal benefits, such as how preschool makes the K-12 system more effective, increases economic growth, and reduces crime and other social problems. It also helps identify and refer children with disabilities, reducing future costs to the K-12 system and the taxpayers.
- First 5 distributed a radio news release in both English and Spanish to hundreds of radio outlets around the state highlighting how preschool helps prepare children to enter kindergarten. The release is estimated to have reached over 1.6 million Californians.
- First 5 also released a pre-written article to hundreds of community newspapers around the state giving parents tips on what to look for in a good preschool and how to stay active in their child's preschool.
- To reinforce First 5 California's key messages about the importance of preschool with the Latino community, State Commissioner Eliseo Medina was featured in a tour with the top Spanish-language radio stations in key Latino markets across the state, including Los Angeles, the Central Valley and Sacramento.

Increased Kit Consumption

- The number of Kits requested on the 1-800 number rose in September by almost 86% over the numbers for August. The increase in calls came after "A Place Of Our Own" and “Los Ninos En Su Casa” started to air during the second half of the month.

ABCD Initiative

- The Affordable Buildings for Child Development (ABCD) Initiative, which was established to build a comprehensive and sustainable system for financing and developing quality center-based child care and preschool facilities in California, has selected six demonstration sites to build local capacity to finance and construct child care centers.

- The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), which oversees the ABCD Initiative, secured \$10 million from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Provident Financial, and JP Morgan Chase for grants and loans for child care center renovation, expansion, and construction.
- The goal of the ABCD Initiative over five years is to increase the number of child care slots by 15,000 spaces.
- The work of these sites will provide prototypes for other California communities and inform a statewide policy agenda in support of facilities development.
- Four additional demonstration sites will be selected in 2005.
- Each demonstration site is eligible for up to \$75,000 per year for three years.
- In addition, ABCD staff are also actively working to develop technical assistance and support mechanisms for other communities undertaking systemic child care facilities development.
- Support will include trainings for child care intermediary organizations in the facilities development process and requirements of ADA in facilities construction; a resource pool of child care facilities experts available statewide to provide technical assistance; and a learning community to share peer experience.
- LIIF has recently announced a \$10 million investment from Impact Community Capital, a consortium of insurance companies, to finance additional child care facility loans.

Zero to Three Conference

- Zero to Three is holding its 19th National Training Institute, “A Changing World for Babies” at the Sacramento Convention Center, December 3-5. First 5 California is sponsoring a special pre-institute exclusively for county commissioners and staff on December 2nd. A planning group is developing the topics focused on infants and toddlers that will be explored. State commissioners and county commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Informal Caregiver (Family, Friend, and Neighbor) Support Project

- Four million dollars in funding is still available from the original \$10 million set aside for the informal care support project: \$2 million was used for the first “research” phase of the project and \$4 million for KCET to support the development of KCETTM and the television shows “A Place of Our Own” and “Los Ninos en Su Casa,” with related educational activities in the community.
- At the same time, the California Department of Education, Child Development Division (CDE/CDD), is moving forward with its Exempt Care Provider Outreach and Training Project.
 - This project consists of approximately \$7.5 million to local resource and referral (R&R) agencies with a proposed contract date of 4/1/05-6/30/07 for an expansion of the California Child Care Initiative Project (CCCIP) to license-exempt caregivers.
- First 5 California staff continues to collaborate with CDD staff on the development of both projects to ensure that efforts complement one another rather than duplicate any services.
 1. There was also an “expert group” on the Informal Care Support Project, which consisted of state partners including the R&R Network, several local R&R’s, two informal caregivers, representatives from the State Department of Education, Department of Social Services and others. In addition, First 5 California is

supporting family, friend and neighbor caregivers through several other initiatives.

- Staff is continuing to refine recommendations for additional ways to support family, friend, and neighbor caregivers.
- Staff will bring recommendations to the Commission in January 2005 when the First 5 California spending plan will be reviewed.

2005 Statewide Conference of County Commissions

- The sixth annual conference will be April 27-29, 2005, at the Hollywood Renaissance Hotel.
- State Commission staff will be working with First 5 Alameda County and the First 5 Association of California to plan and present the conference, with input from county commissioners on priority topics and issues.
- The Southern Region First 5 Commissions will host the event.

Preview of January 2005 Commission Meeting

- The State Commission's annual two-day planning retreat will be January 26-27, which is a Wednesday/Thursday, in Burbank.
- The Commission will, among other things, be reviewing and revising our spending plan.

Commissioner Margaret Taylor

Vice Chairperson Duff announced that it was Commissioner Taylor's last meeting as a Commissioner as her term expires at the end of the year. She acknowledged the tremendous contributions Commissioner Taylor has made towards First 5 efforts and her tenure as a Commissioner. She noted her enthusiasm to continued collaboration with Commissioner Taylor in her capacity outside of the Commission.

Discussion

Discussion among Commissioners following this report included:

- Commissioner Gutierrez suggested that the KCET programs should be filmed in more home-like settings. She also asked for a report on outreach efforts and Dr. Henderson stated a complete report would be brought back to the Commission in January 2005.
- Commissioner Gutierrez noted that since Proposition 10 is passed five years of age, it would be timely to celebrate the key accomplishments of First 5 California in this relatively short period of time.
- It was reported that Commissioner Eliseo Medina was on Spanish-language national news program on 10/21/04 speaking on the topics of Preschool for All and Health Access.

- **Executive Director's Report – Item 5**

Jane Henderson, Executive Director, First 5 California Children and Families Commission, provided an update on the following issues:

Legislation Update (AB 712, formerly AB 56)

- Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the First 5-sponsored Preschool for All bill. The bill had been scaled back from a fairly detailed bill (AB 56) that would have set up the framework for a statewide Preschool for All program, to a study bill (AB 712) that would have asked us (First 5 California) to estimate the cost of a voluntary preschool for all program, and to lead a Preschool Teaching Workforce Development Blue Ribbon Committee.
- In his veto message, the Governor indicated his strong commitment to comprehensive school readiness and his willingness to work with us to assess the infrastructure and options available in providing a statewide preschool program. He did not believe, however, that legislative authority was needed at this time.
- (AB 712 and possible future Commission activity were discussed in detail in Item 14 of the agenda.)

Williams v. State of California Lawsuit Settlement

- A lawsuit known as the “Williams case” was settled in August after more than four years of litigation and debate about the equality of education in California.
- 46 schools from Los Angeles to Oakland were named in this class-action lawsuit that challenged the stunted educational opportunities and decrepit, filthy facilities attended by about one million poor California children, predominantly children of color.
- Brought by the ACLU and other civil rights groups.
 - The Williams v. California lawsuit charged that a distinctly two-tiered education system persists in California, in spite of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 50-year old decision in Brown v. Board of Education that discrimination in education is unconstitutional.
 - Conditions in many of California’s public schools were found to be “appalling” – ceiling tiles cracked and falling, roofs leaking, non-working toilets, not enough or no textbooks at all, and significant numbers of teachers without teaching credentials.
- Under the settlement agreement reached by the Governor and the ACLU, the state will set aside up to \$1 billion to repair deteriorating facilities in 2,400* low-performing schools, plus \$139 million this year for textbooks, and another \$50 million to assess facility needs. It also sets up a system for students, teachers and parents to report complaints, and for county education superintendents to monitor compliance.
 - *NOTE: There are 9,000 public K-12 schools in California, so this identification of 2,400 schools to receive additional funding for facilities improvements is significant.
- The agreement required legislative and court approval. Legislative approval has been secured, with the Governor’s signature last month on four bills that had been Master Plan for Education bills.

Preschool Conference: Brookings Institute/UNC

- Dr. Henderson reported that she attended a national conference in Washington, D.C. in September, where issues were discussed concerning finance, workforce development, and how to build on existing systems and work across systems. Dr. Henderson stated that it was interesting to see that many concerns raised by other states were some of the same concerns being addressed California. The question of whether there should be a national plan for universal preschool was discussed and participants agreed that it should be left up to individual states.

Diversity Contract

- The process to contract out for diversity expertise and consultation is in its final approval stage at the Department of General Services.
- The Commission approved funding for the 18-month contract (up to \$500,000) at the July meeting. The evaluation process was then concluded and a \$416,000 contract is in the process of being awarded to California Tomorrow and its partners, the Interaction Institute for Social Change and Consulting by Design. Collectively, these three organizations have many years of experience designing and facilitating collaborative planning, leadership and action concerning matters of diversity, cultural competency, inclusion and equity.
- The evaluation team was impressed with this “partnership’s” understanding of First 5’s desire to clarify, align and strengthen our strategy to bring the Principles on Equity to life in more practical and “real” terms.
 - California Tomorrow is an organization with a 20-year history of conducting research and providing technical assistance related to cultural competency, inclusion, and equity matters in a number of fields including early childhood education, dual-language development, K-12 equity and reform, after-school programs, and community building.
 - The core team has extensive experience working with diverse populations, constituencies and formal and informal networks related to children and families in the state.

Special Needs Project Update

The following items are various activities pertaining to the SNP since the last commission meeting.

July

Release of SNP RFA to all county commissions

SNP Input Group meeting with First 5 CCFC staff, project staff and evaluators, state agency partners and county commission representatives to the project evaluation design. Focus: advisory input to the project evaluation design and use of the Desired Results Developmental Profile.

August and September

RFA Information and Conference calls (8/10 and 9/9/04) Number of counties represented: 24.

SNP Evaluation Work Group Meeting (8/23/04). Team focus: development and implementation of the project evaluation design.

SNP Screening Work Group Meeting (9/20/04). Team focus: development of a comprehensive screening protocol for children birth through five years.

SNP State Agency Partners Input Meeting (9/21/04). Team focus: local service implications for demonstration sites and information sharing among agencies.

October

SNP Application Deadline: October 4. 18 applications received. (To be screened on 10/5).

Counties represented: Butte, El Dorado, Kern, Los Angeles,
Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento,
San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma,
Ventura

Teams of readers discuss and score applications by end of October.

November

Site visits to SNP finalists, as needed

December

Award letters disseminated to selected applicants.

January 2005

Demonstration sites begin implementation of the SNP

PR Contractor – Rogers & Associates – Receives Awards

Dr. Henderson reported that the Commission's public relations contractor, Rogers & Association has received two Latino Marketing Awards for its work with First 5 California.

First 5 California Staff -- Update

Dr. Henderson introduced two new staff members.

David Henderson -- has joined our IT unit. He will be working as a LAN Administrator in the Technology and Strategic Planning Section. He comes to us from DMV's Information Systems Division. He will be responsible for supporting the technology environment at the Commission including assisting staff and maintaining the commission website.

Debra Merchant -- is the Commission's new Special Needs Consultant. Deb comes to us from Sacramento City Unified School District where she managed the district's Head Start and State Preschool programs. Prior to that Deb worked in pre-k through adult special education and rehabilitation. She is a speech pathologist by training. Deb will serve as project lead for the Special Needs Project and the Infant, Preschool, Family Mental Health project. She will also provide leadership on supporting children with disabilities and other special needs by consulting on other First 5 initiatives (such as PFA and SR and health programs), training, communications, policy, and research and evaluation.

Rachel Wales -- former Executive Fellow is now a Commission staff member.

Dr. Henderson announced that the Commission's legal counsel, Frank Furtek, was attending his last meeting today as the Commission's lead counsel. He has accepted a position as Chief Counsel to Secretary Kim Belshe' at the Health and Human Services Agency.

- **First 5 Association of California Report -- Item 6**

Mark Friedman, President of the First 5 Association, reported on current Association activities.

The Association has moved forward rapidly in its partnership with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the State Commission to develop a fiscal management technical assistance program for the counties. Over the next six months, GFOA will design a manual of model policies and launch an extensive training program. This follows the Association's long-time practice of assisting local commissions to strive for continual improvement by providing training and technical assistance opportunities focused on research-based best practices.

The Association is also working with State Commission staff and GFOA to review and improve the statewide evaluation process. It is increasingly important that First 5 be able to demonstrate the impact of Proposition 10 funding on the families and communities they serve. The evaluation process is complex, given the wide variety of approaches counties are taking to meet the needs of families in their local communities. GFOA noted in its recent assessment of county fiscal practices that the mandate in Proposition 10 to link funding directly to outcomes is a model the whole country can learn from, but it presents daunting challenges to both the state and local commissions.

Assemblywoman Chan is planning a hearing on First 5 in early December. The Association is working with her staff to ensure the hearing not only addresses issues raised in the State Audit Report, but also provides an opportunity to showcase the progress that has been made since passage of the Prop 10 initiative.

The Packard Foundation funded the Association to convene their grantees and First 5-funded Preschool for All planning and implementation projects. Representatives of all the projects will meet as a learning community several times over the coming year, with the 1st meeting scheduled for November 4.

The Association is working to help coordinate the various PFA activities that are underway across the state. To that end, Preschool California presented an update on its outreach and advocacy activities at the Association meeting on Oct. 20. The Association is also an active participant in the collaborative meetings of State Commission staff, Packard Foundation staff, and Preschool California.

The First 5 Association has gone live with its new website. It is designed to be an active and lively forum for information exchange. It is open to the public with only limited sections that are password protected. The website can be found at www.F5AC.org.

The Association has begun work on the 2005 state conference, slated for April 27 – 29 at the Hollywood Renaissance Hotel. It will include more roundtable workshops where commissioners and others have the opportunity to talk directly with one another about their local experience. State Commissioners will be invited to participate in conference events to the extent they are available. Last year Commissioner Taylor played a terrific host and leadership role.

A Pre-conference Institute will be held the day prior to the conference. Among other activities, it will feature an orientation session for new commissioners to meet the need of local commissions experiencing significant commissioner turn-over after 4 or 5 years of operation.

Mark thanked Commissioner Taylor for her service as a State Commissioner and expressed regret at her departure. He also thanked Frank Furtek of the Attorney General's office for his assistance to the Association in his role as counselor to the State Commission.

- **California Smokers Helpline – Item 7**

The State Commission approved a proposal in the amount of \$3,100,000 to continue supporting the California Smokers' Helpline through June 30, 2009.

ACTION: The State Commission approved funding not to exceed \$3,100,000 for the purpose of extending the contract with the University of California at San Diego through June 30, 2008 to continue the delivery of tobacco cessation services provided by the California Smokers' Helpline for pregnant smokers and smokers who are parents or caregivers of young children (0-5) and other related services.

- **Public Relations Request for Proposal (RFP) Update – Item 8**

Staff requested Commission approval to release a Public Relations Request for Proposal in the amount of \$21 million over three years. The funding also includes \$9 million over three years for a Statewide Partnership Program. The PR RFP will be released through a competitive bid process. The PR contractor will be responsible for:

- Conducting traditional public education and outreach targeting parents and caregivers of children 0-5 in diverse communities throughout the state.
- Supporting County Commissions' local media efforts, especially in rural and small counties.

- Establishing a new Statewide Partnership Program to forge new statewide partnerships and provide for different methods of communicating with parents and caregivers.
- Reporting its recommendations for the Statewide Partnership Program back to the State Commission for approval. Report must include:
 - Criteria for selecting new statewide partner organizations;
 - How subcontractors will ensure all target populations are reached, including children with Special Needs and Disabilities and their families, Latino and other diverse communities;
 - Performance requirements to evaluate success of program
 - Financial and operating requirements
 - Method for ensuring selection process ensures coordination with Local First 5 Commissions
 - Methods for distributing First 5 messages
 - The approach and expected results of parent empowerment component
- Reporting back to the State Commission on the progress of the Statewide Partnership Program.
- Coordinating statewide partnership outreach efforts with local First 5 County Commissions.

ACTION: Commissioner Gutierrez moved that the Commission approve release of the PR RFP in the amount of \$21 million over three years, with \$9 million earmarked for a new Statewide Partnerships Program with the following additional requirements included in the RFP:

- Collaborate with local commissions in the counties in which they are contracted to work.
- Where parent empowerment activities are already supported by a local commission, conduct the new activities in conjunction and/or coordination with those existing activities in order to prevent confusion or duplication of effort.
- Avoid creating parent expectation of immediate access to state First 5 services that are not available in the particular county in which they are working. (Note: not all state First 5 programs are available statewide.)
- Be familiar with First 5 services that are available locally in order to provide parents with accurate information, as appropriate.

Commissioner Vismara seconded the original motion. Commissioner Taylor then seconded the motion upon clarification of one of the statements in the original motion. The clarification dealt with creating parent expectation of immediate access to First 5 services that may not be available in a particular county. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

• **Bureau of State Audits – Audit Update – Item 9**

The Commission was updated on recent efforts following the July 2004 audit of First 5 California and five County First 5 Commissions. Two working groups have been formed to review and make recommendations on the audit findings and other areas of the California Children and Families Act (Act):

- 1) An ad-hoc working group composed of legislative, administration, and State and County First 5 representatives, will 1) review audit findings; 2) review the current Act; 3) recommend legislative and/or administrative changes; and 4) inform the evaluation workgroup. Consistent with the requirement in the Act that it can only be amended if it is to further the goals of the Act, any recommendations from this working group must be in keeping with the spirit of the Act.
- 2) An evaluation workgroup will operate through a contract with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) based in Chicago, Illinois. GFOA will facilitate the development of a common evaluation framework with State and County Commission staff and outside experts to identify measurement and data needs; finalize the next evaluation contract framework; and develop an implementation plan. The State Commission will use the products and agreements from this effort to develop the next evaluation contract Request for Proposals.

The State Commission and the First 5 County Association, with First 5 Orange serving as the fiscal agent, will work in partnership on a GFOA review of County Commissions. GFOA will also provide the following:

- Best Practices Policy Manual
- Best Practices Implementation Plan
- Education and training
- Ongoing support to County Commissions

Assemblymember Wilma Chan will likely hold a legislative hearing in December 2004 in her district, Alameda County. The focus of the hearing will be potential legislative changes associated with the audit recommendations.

• **Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation Contract Extension – Item 10**

ACTION: The Commission approved an extension of the current Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation contract with SRI International (ending 2/28/05) for one year at a cost not to exceed \$5 million. The extension is necessary to continue the statewide data collection, the School Readiness evaluation, the Special Needs Initiative evaluation, direct support to the counties, and complete the 2004/2005 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature while a new evaluation RFP is being developed.

• **Annual Review of Guidelines – Item 11**

The Commission agreed that there is a need to update the Guidelines to reflect the development and growth of First 5 California. The Commission discussed the need to revise the current Guidelines to align with the work currently being done with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) on financial management practices and the review and update of the statewide evaluation framework. The revision of the Guidelines will need to incorporate the outcomes of GFOA's work, which should be completed by April 2005.

- **Preschool for All (PFA) Demonstration Project Criteria and Timeline– Item 12**

The Preschool for All (PFA) Initiative was first approved at the July 2003 First 5 CCFC meeting when \$100M was allocated over the next 7 years to fund PFA Demonstration Projects. In March and July 2004, First 5 CCFC supported the PFA planning process by approving 12 PFA Planning Projects (\$50,000 each) that met ‘threshold criteria.’ Also, the Commission approved technical assistance for the PFA Planning Projects.

The First 5 CCFC reviewed and discussed two sets of criteria for the First 5 PFA Demonstration Projects:

- A. Criteria for County Commission PFA PLANS (PFA infrastructure)
- B. Criteria for PFA PROGRAMS (preschool quality standards)

The First 5 PFA Demonstration Project criteria will provide a common framework regarding quality standards, financial and policy commitments, and connections to a statewide process to become part of California’s public education system.

The First 5 CCFC also reviewed a revised timeline:

- During **Year One** (currently in progress), work with participating County Commissions to develop PFA plans. Begin work with all County Commissions on technical assistance, evaluation, and other efforts.
- During **Years Two and Three**, roll-out First 5 PFA Demonstration Projects and collaborate with Packard/First 5 Association PFA Learning Community.
- During **Years Four through Seven+**, participating counties implement First 5 PFA Demonstration Projects and test various implementation strategies. Also continue PFA technical assistance and advocacy, and begin data collection and evaluation.

Timeline:

January 2005	First 5 CCFC approval of PFA Criteria
April 2004 - July 2005	Counties develop PFA Plans
July 2005	PFA Demonstration Projects applications due
October 2005	PFA Demonstration Projects applications approved
November 2005- 2011	Implementation and evaluation of PFA Demonstration Projects

During the discussion, Commissioners requested that an evaluation question regarding effective parent outreach strategies be added, in addition to more explicit criteria for parent/family outreach. Commissioners reinforced the importance of achieving quality standards and also stressed the need to add new preschool spaces to avoid widening the access and achievement gap faced by underserved and high-priority communities. Staff will make these changes and reformat the presentation for the January Commission meeting. An update was requested from the PFA Planning Projects regarding preliminary information on topics such as workforce development, screening processes, and outreach strategies to include children from diverse backgrounds and children with special needs.

- **Children of Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers Project – Item 13**

Staff provided the Commission with an informational program update of the First Five funded Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Project. The presentation reviewed the first year progress of this project that was funded at \$10 million dollars over 4 years. Implemented in two program components along with an evaluation phase, the projects goal is to augment and increase where possible the child-care services, parent education, and family literacy services available to California's migrant parents and children. It was reported that First Five California is working collaboratively with the California Migrant Education Even Start (MEES) program to (1) create additional school-center based programs, (2) increase the home based service element, and (3) implement a demonstration "outreach" program provided by La Union Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE). To date, the MEES program has implemented 110 new program sites and has increased enrollments over 17% by serving 5,212 new clients, (both children and parents). The LUPE outreach project is also operational in the 8 targeted counties and is providing outreach activity to the migrant and seasonal farm worker communities.

- **Legislation Update – Item 14**

The Commission was presented with an overview of the 2004 legislative session, with a focus on the early childhood development, health, and tobacco bills signed and vetoed by the Governor. Of the 3,100 bills introduced in 2004 and carried over from 2003, 1,270 were passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor for action. Governor Schwarzenegger signed 959 bills and vetoed 311.

The following bills were signed, vetoed, or failed passage by the Legislature:

Early Childhood Development Bills:

- AB 1550, AB 3001, SB 6, SB 550 – were signed into law to implement the provisions of the class-action Williams v. State of California lawsuit settlement.
- AB 2407 (Bermudez) – was signed into law to allow school districts to schedule full-day kindergarten classes, which was a recommendation from the Master Plan for Education.
- AB 379 (Mullin) – signed into law to establish Family Child Care Home education networks to support educational objectives, codifying the State Department of Education's current practice and setting standards for the network programs.
- AB 1530 (Negrete-McLeod) – signed into law to give children of incarcerated mothers access to early care and education programs such as Head Start, Health Start, and First 5 programs.
- AB 242 (Liu) – vetoed – was the Master Plan for Education's "professional development" bill.
- AB 712 (Steinberg, Chan, Daucher and Liu) – vetoed – previously AB 56, which was the Master Plan for Education's "preschool for all" bill, sponsored by First 5 California. As AB 712, called for a cost study to estimate the cost of providing voluntary preschool to California's children, and a Workforce Development Blue Ribbon Committee to create a plan for the teaching workforce needed for Preschool for All.
- SB 1343 (Escutia) – vetoed – would have required the State Department of Education to develop an Infant and Toddler Care Master Plan.

- SB 1897 (Burton) – vetoed – would have implemented various provisions of child care reform, including reimbursement rate methodologies and the organization of child care providers.
- AB 2860 (Pavley) – failed passage by the Legislature – would have changed the age for kindergarten entry from December 2 to September 1.

Child Health Bills:

- AB 2132 (Reyes) and AB 2185 (Frommer) – signed into law to support the treatment of asthma at school.
- AB 2943 (Pavley) – signed into law to prohibit the use of vaccines containing thimerosal for pregnant women and children under age three.

Tobacco Bills:

- AB 384 (Leslie) – signed – prohibition of tobacco at Youth Authority and Correctional facilities.
- AB 2030 (Cogdill) – signed – internet posting of tobacco revenues.
- AB 894 (Firebauth) – failed passage by the Legislature – would have prohibited smoking in vehicles with young passengers in car safety restraints. Related bill: HR 56 (Maze) also failed passage.
- AB 35 and 1416 (Vargas) – failed passage by the Legislature – would have created a new \$1.50 per pack tax on cigarettes for health programs.

AB 712 and Workforce Development:

The Commission then discussed the Workforce Development provisions that were contained in AB 712, and whether First 5 California should pursue the convening of the Blue Ribbon Committee and the preparation of a Workforce Development Plan in the absence of legislation, since AB 712 was vetoed. In his veto message, Governor Schwarzenegger wrote that his “Administration will work in collaboration with the California Children and Families Commission and other interested groups and parties to assess the infrastructure and options available in providing a statewide preschool program.”

The goal of convening the Blue Ribbon Committee is to do the planning for a Preschool for All workforce, using experts that would be most directly involved in changing the instruction, curriculum and course content that would be required, and individuals most influential in enhancing activities such as mentoring, outreach, financial support and career incentives. Membership would include experts in early child care and education, parents, staff from local First 5 commissions with experience in the Child Care Retention Incentive program and Preschool for All implementation, the business community, and representatives from all levels of higher education.

The purpose of the Workforce Development Plan is to design a roadmap to prepare a diverse early education workforce that is educated and trained to meet the increased standards of Preschool for All, as contemplated in AB 56/AB 712, and that is sufficient in size to offer preschool opportunities to California’s preschool-age children. The plan would include recommendations for two key areas: 1) content, competencies and coursework; and 2) higher education infrastructure, alignment, course development and outreach to students.

ACTION: Commissioners directed staff to go forward with the concept of convening the Blue Ribbon Committee and preparing the Workforce Development Plan, and to explore the concept with Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration. Commissioners indicated that because workforce development is a vital component of Preschool for All, it should be pursued. If support from the Administration is secured, a funding request will be brought back to the Commission in January 2005. Commissioner Taylor moved and Commissioner Gutierrez seconded the motion, which was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- **Adjournment – Item 15**

Vice Chairperson Duff adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Gutierrez asked that the meeting be adjourned in recognition of Commissioner Margaret Taylor's outstanding service to First 5 California, and in recognition of the excellent work of the staff. The next Commission meeting will be January 26-27, 2005 in Burbank.